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FOR AMBASSADOR

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLJ 90-142
By NARA, Date 10-30-90

Following is personal message from President to Prime Minister to be delivered with Presidential statement transmitted septel.

QUOTE: I am asking Ambassador Taylor to convey to you personally a statement I am making in Washington tonight concerning the deliberate attacks which have been made by Communist North Vietnamese torpedo boats on American vessels operating on the high seas. The measures I have ordered are intended to make it unmistakeably clear to the Communist leaders in Hanoi that the United States defends its rights and that our commitment to assist your country in preserving her freedom and independence cannot be shaken.

The Hanoi regime has embarked upon an adventure which can have the gravest consequences for world peace, and I believe that you and I have responsibilities which extend

Drafted by: S/VN:MVForrestal:caw 8/4/64

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: The Secretary

Clearances:
WHite House - McGeorge Bundy
S/S - Mr. Christensen

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beyond our own borders. For this reason our response to North Vietnamese provocation has been, for the present, limited in the hope that the Hanoi regime will recognize the dangers which flow from increasing violence in Southeast Asia.

It is of the utmost importance therefore that our two countries continue to plan and act in the closest consultation during the very critical days ahead. Ambassador Taylor will always be prepared to communicate your thoughts to me, and I will keep in close touch with you through him. END QUOTE.

END

RUSK

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